

## **Biographies for Representatives of the Delta Protection Commission**

### **Mike McGowan, Chair, Delta Protection Commission (since January 1993) Member, Yolo County Board of Supervisors**

Mike McGowan was elected to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors in 1992 and again in 1996. His work as a supervisor has included representing the Board at the Yolo County Transit Authority; the Local Mental Health Board; the Yolo Basin Working Group; the Library Advisory Board; the Sacramento Area Trade and Commerce Advisory Board; the Port of Sacramento, the Delta Protection Commission; the Bay-Estuary Project; and the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management Board. Prior to his election to the Board of Supervisors, McGowan was elected to the City Council of the newly-incorporated city of West Sacramento in 1987 and served as the city's first Mayor. Mike is a life-long Yolo County resident and has a law practice in the city of West Sacramento.

### **Michael Reagan, Member, Delta Protection Commission (since January 2005) Member, Solano County Board of Supervisors**

Michael J. Reagan joined the Solano County Board of Supervisors in January 2005, representing District 5, which encompasses Dixon, Rio Vista, the unincorporated area of Elmira and the eastern portions of Vacaville and Suisun City. He is serving as chair of the Board for 2007. Reagan retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force after nearly 30 years, including three years as Chief of Staff at Travis Air Force Base. After his retirement from the Air Force, Reagan served as a senior advisor in the state Legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives, and in management positions with the local Board of Realtors and Chamber of Commerce. He worked as a senior advisor to then-State Senator Maurice Johannessen, who represented Solano and 10 other Northern California counties for nearly a decade. Reagan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Niagara University in New York.

### **Larry Ruhstaller, Member, Delta Protection Commission (since January 2007) Member, San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors**

Larry Ruhstaller was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2007 after serving two terms on the Stockton City Council. As a city council member, he served on the Port Liaison Committee, the Community Improvement, Crime Prevention and Audit Committees; and the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency Board of Directors. He was involved in a number of community boards and commissions, including chairman of the 1993 Stockton Asparagus Festival and president of the Stockton Beautiful Citizens' Committee and the Miracle Mile Improvement Association Board of Directors. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Ruhstaller owns and operates The Alder Market Restaurant and Catering Company, which has been a part of Stockton for 25 years.

### **Mary Piepho, Member Delta Protection Commission (since January 2007) Member, Contra Costa Board of Supervisors**

Mary N. Piepho was elected to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in November, 2004, and was sworn in as chair in January 2007. She represents Contra Costa County's District III, which includes the Delta communities of Discovery Bay, Diablo, Brentwood, Byron, and Knightsen. Prior to her election as a county supervisor, Piepho was elected to the Byron Union School District, and served as an aide to two members of the California State Assembly: Lynne

Leach and Guy Houston. She has also served as president of both the Los Medanos Community College District Foundation Board and the Contra Costa Community College District Measure A Bond Oversight Committee, and as a member of the Highway 4 Safety Task Force. Additionally, Piepho served as a director on the Discovery Bay Chamber of Commerce, Discovery Bay Parent-Teacher Association and as a Contra Costa County Special District representative.

**Arne Simonsen, Member, Delta Protection Commission (representing the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) since January 2007)  
Member, Antioch City Council**

Arne Simonsen has been actively involved in the decision making process for the City of Antioch, National Federation of Independent Business, the Better Business Bureau and the Antioch Chamber of Commerce. After retiring from the Navy in 1987, Simonsen moved to Antioch and went to work for his parents' heating and air conditioning company. When they retired, he formed his own successful heating and air conditioning company with his children in 1993. After high school, Simonsen went on active duty, beginning a 24-year naval career in which he served as a Russian linguist and cryptanalyst. He served for many years overseas, retiring in 1987 as the National Security Agency Representative to the Defense Language Institute/Foreign Language center in the Presidio of Monterey. He holds two bachelors degrees from the University of the State of New York and graduated first in his class at the National Cryptologic School.

**Christopher Cabaldon, Member, Delta Protection Commission (representing Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) since March 1997)  
Mayor, City of West Sacramento**

Christopher Cabaldon was first elected to the West Sacramento City Council in 1996, and is now serving his fifth term as Mayor. Cabaldon served for five years as Vice Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. Cabaldon was a top policy expert with the state Legislature for nearly a decade, serving as the staff director of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and chief of staff to the chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. In 2003, Cabaldon became President/Chief Executive Officer of EdVoice, a nonprofit advocacy network of 20,000 Californians working to make schools work better for kids through state policy reform and new resources. He is also an advisory board member for New Schools Better Neighborhoods and the Master Plan Alliance, and a member of the Blue Ribbon Committee for the Governor's Initiative to Turn Around Failing Schools.